In the Drawings:

Please replace the drawing sheets as originally filed with the replacement drawing sheets attached herewith. Also attached is a set of annotated sheets showing the following changes:

In Figure 1A, the CPU element (previously 118) in the POLICY MANAGER SERVER has been renumbered 146.

In Figure 3A, element 332 (previously named "QUERY API") has been renamed "APPLICATION GUARD INTERFACE."

In Figure 4, the COMMUNICATION INTERFACE element (previously 434) has been renumbered 460. The OPTIMIZER element (previously 436) has been renumbered 462. The DIFFER element (previously 438) has been renumbered 464.

Applicant respectfully submits that the proposed amendments to the drawings are being provided to correct various informalities in the drawings as originally filed, and that no new matter is being added.

Remarks

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed May 3, 2005. A Petition for Extension of Time is submitted herewith, together with the appropriate fee.

I. Summary of Examiner's Rejections

Prior to the Office Action mailed May 3, 2005, Claims 1-18 and 34-35 (which have been renumbered by Examiner as 19-20) were pending in the Application. In the Office Action, the Drawings were objected to as containing various informalities. Claims 2, 8, 11, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-8, 10-12, 14, 16-17, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Carter (*Alan R. Carter, "Windows NT 4.0 MCSE Study Guide," 1997, ISBN: 0764530879*). Claims 4, 9, 13 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carter in view of the Microsoft Press reference (*Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary, 3rd Edition, ISBN: 157231446XA, 1997*). Claims 6 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carter.

II. Summary of Applicant's Amendment

The present Response amends Figures 1A, 3A and 4, and also amends the Specification and 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 11, 16, 17, 19 and 20, leaving for the Examiner's present consideration Claims 1-20. Reconsideration of the Application, as amended, is respectfully requested. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to prosecute any originally presented or canceled claims in a continuing or future application.

III. Drawings

In the Office Action mailed May 3, 2005, the Drawings were objected to as containing various informalities. Accordingly, Applicant is submitting together with this Response a set of replacement

drawing sheets for Figures 1A, 3A and 4, and requests that the original drawing sheets be replaced with those attached herewith. Applicant respectfully submits that the proposed amendment addresses only informalities in the Drawings as originally filed, and that no new matter is being added.

IV. Specification

In the Office Action mailed May 3, 2005, the Examiner noted that several objects shown in the Drawings, including objects 464, 516 and 518 in the Drawings were not referenced in the specification. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the specification to include references to the specified objects. Applicant respectfully submits that the proposed amendments are being provided to correct only informalities in the Specification, and that no new matter is being added.

V. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

In the Office Action mailed May 3, 2005, Claims 2, 8, 11 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicant regards as the invention. Accordingly, Applicant has amended Claims 2, 8, 11, and 17, as shown above, to clarify the embodiments claimed therein. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as amended comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

VI. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

In the Office Action mailed May 3, 2005, Claims 1-3, 5, 7-8, 10-12, 14, 16-17, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Carter (*Alan R. Carter, "Windows NT 4.0 MCSE Study Guide," 1997, ISBN: 0764530879*).

Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended by the current Response to more clearly define the embodiment therein. As amended, claim 1 defines:

> *1. A system for maintaining security in a distributed computing environment, comprising:*
> *(1) a policy manager, coupled to a network, including*
> *a database for storing a security policy including a plurality of rules; and*
> *a policy distributor, coupled to the database, for distributing the plurality of rules through the network;*
> *(2) a security engine located on a client coupled to the network, for storing a set of the plurality of rules constituting a local customized security policy received through the network from the policy distributor, and for enforcing the local customized security policy with respect to an application at the client; and*
> *(3) an application, coupled to the security engine.*

Claim 1, as currently amended, defines a system for maintaining security, wherein a security engine located on a client is responsible for enforcing a *local customized* security policy for that client, which in turn is *distributed and received* through the network from a policy distributor. Furthermore, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the enforcement of the local security policy is with respect to an application *at the client*.

The advantages of the embodiment defined by Claim 1 include that it provides a local customized security policy to each client, which can then be used to control security for that particular client at the application level of the client. Each client on the network may be provided with its own customizable security policy that is different from other clients, so that the system provides greater control over the security process. Since the local security policy is enforced at the client/application level rather than by making network calls to the server, this feature can also lessen network traffic. Furthermore, a more modular form of security is possible because each application has the ability to evaluate access privileges upon every request for access to a particular information.

Carter discloses a Windows NT security policy. In particular, Carter appears to disclose a system policy file which restricts a user's ability to perform certain tasks on a Windows NT

computer on a network to which a user has logged onto (Carter page 350). When a user logs on to the domain, the system policy is retrieved from the `Netlogon` share on the domain controller and the user is authenticated (Page 351).

Applicant respectfully submits that Carter fails to disclose the distribution of a custom and local security policy to each client. Instead, Carter appears to teach that an administrator must create a system policy file and save it in the `Netlogon` share on each domain controller. That system policy file is then retrieved by the operating system when a user logs on to the domain. However, Carter does not appear to disclose or suggest a local security policy which is customizable to each client and which is distributed to that client, as defined by Claim 1.

Furthermore, in Carter, since the system policy file appears to be stored in the `Netlogon` share on each domain controller and retrieved and enforced by the server, the policy evaluation appears to be at the server level, rather than locally at the client. However in the embodiment defined by Claim 1, the point of enforcement is at the client's level.

Furthermore, as disclosed by Carter, the system policy is a collection of user, group and computer policies and this system policy can be applied to all users, groups and computers, or to individual users groups and computers. (Pages 350-51). Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Carter appears to disclose a single, large system policy file which can be applied individually to various users or computers. However, in the embodiment defined by Claim 1, as currently amended, the security policy is customized to each client, and is then distributed to the client and enforced at that client's level.

In view of the above comments, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1, as amended, is neither anticipated by, nor obvious in view of the cited references, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 7, 10, 16, 19 and 20

Claims 7, 10, 16, 19 and 20 have been amended similarly to Claim 1 to more clearly define the embodiments therein. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 7, 10, 16, 19 and 20 as

amended, are likewise neither anticipated by, nor obvious in view of the cited references, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 11, 12, 14 and 17

Claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 11, 12, 14 and 17 are not addressed separately, but it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable as depending from an allowable independent claim, and further in view of the comments provided above. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 11, 12, 14 and 17 are similarly neither anticipated by, nor obvious in view of the cited references, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

It is also submitted that these claims also add their own limitations which render them patentable in their own right. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to argue these limitations should it become necessary in the future.

VII. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Office Action mailed May 3, 2005, Claims 4, 9, 13 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carter in view of the Microsoft Press reference (*Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary, 3rd Edition, ISBN: 157231446XA, 1997*). Claims 6 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carter.

Claims 4, 6, 9, 13, 15 and 18 are not addressed separately, but it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable as depending from an allowable independent claim, and further in view of the comments provided above. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 4, 6, 9, 13, 15 and 18 are similarly neither anticipated by, nor obvious in view of the cited references, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

It is also submitted that these claims also add their own limitations which render them patentable in their own right. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to argue these limitations should it become necessary in the future.

VIII. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

Enclosed is a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for extending the time to respond up to and including November 3, 2005.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 11/03/2005 By: /Justas Geringson/

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ANNOTATED SHEET

Title:	SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MAINTAINING SECURITY IN A DISTRIBUTED COMPUTER NETWORK
Inventor(s):	Mark S. Moriconi
Application No.:	10/017,368
Agent:	Justas Geringson
Docket No.:	BEAS-01453US3
Telephone No.:	(415) 362-3800
Filing date:	Dec. 13, 2001

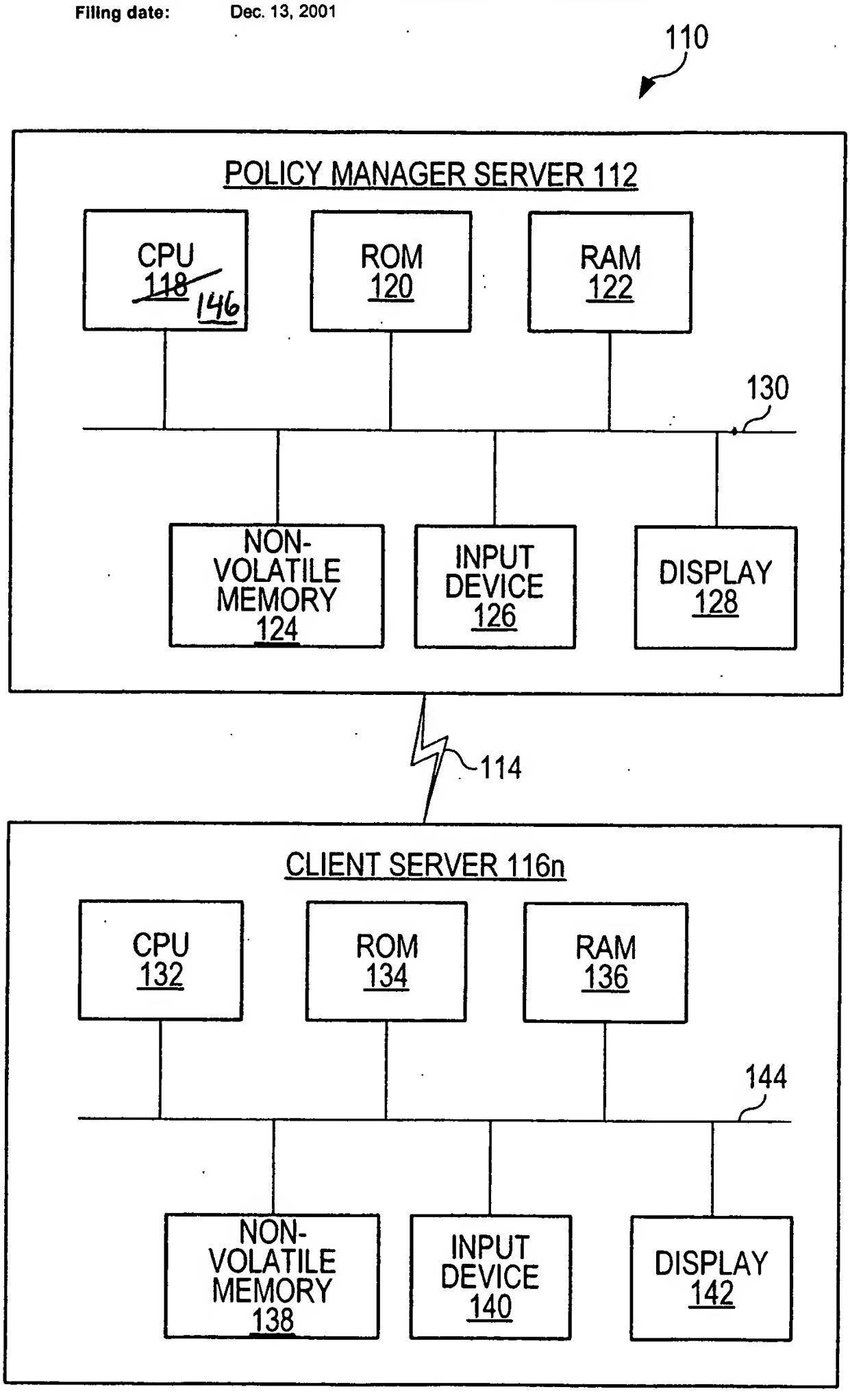

FIG. 1A

ANNOTATED SHEET

Title:	SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MAINTAINING SECURITY IN A DISTRIBUTED COMPUTER NETWORK
Inventor(s):	Mark S. Moriconi
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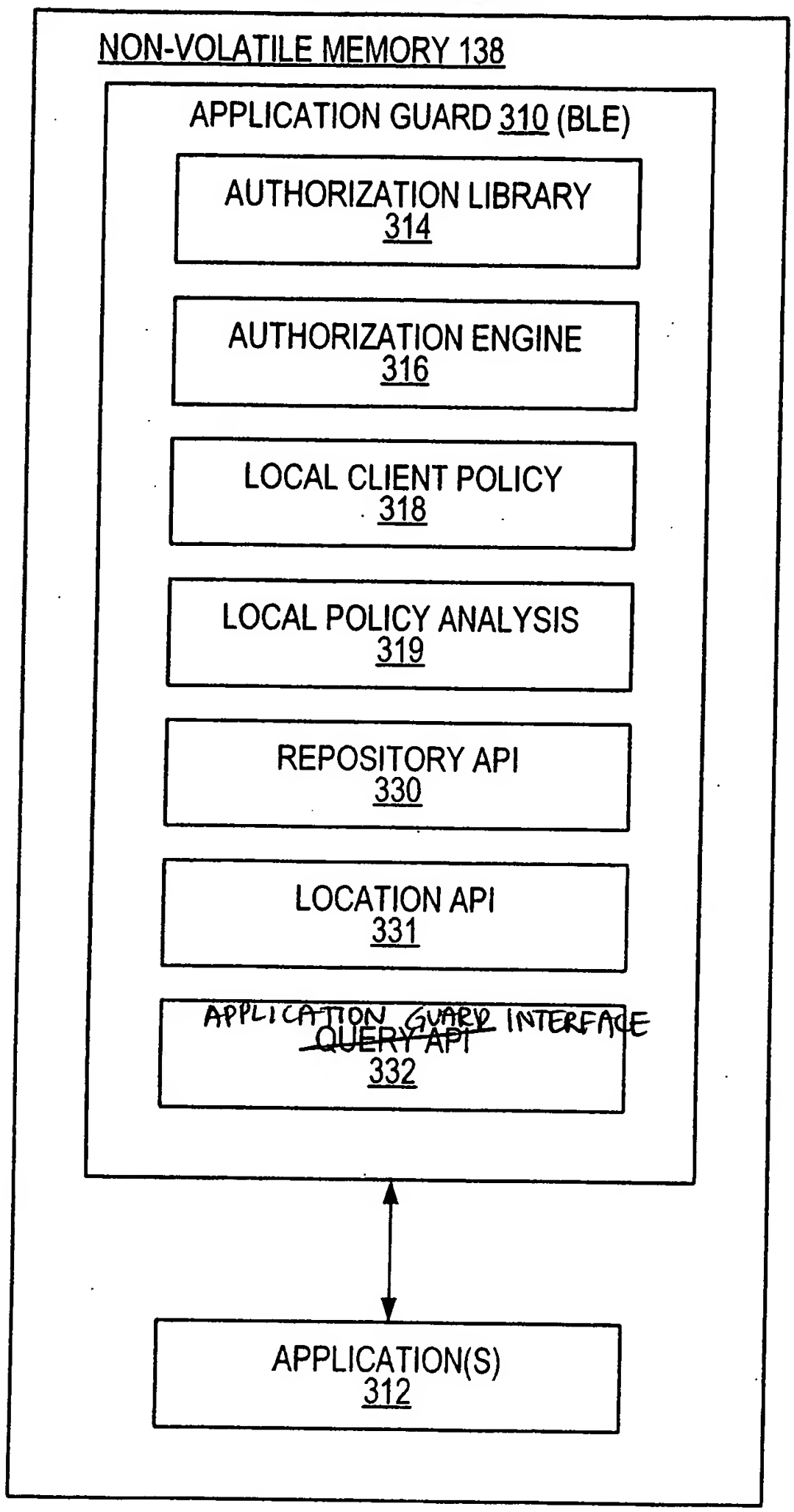

FIG. 3A

ANNOTATED SHEET

Title:	SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MAINTAINING SECURITY IN A DISTRIBUTED COMPUTER NETWORK		
Inventor(s):	Mark S. Moriconi		
Application No.:	10/017,368	**Agent:**	Justas Geringson
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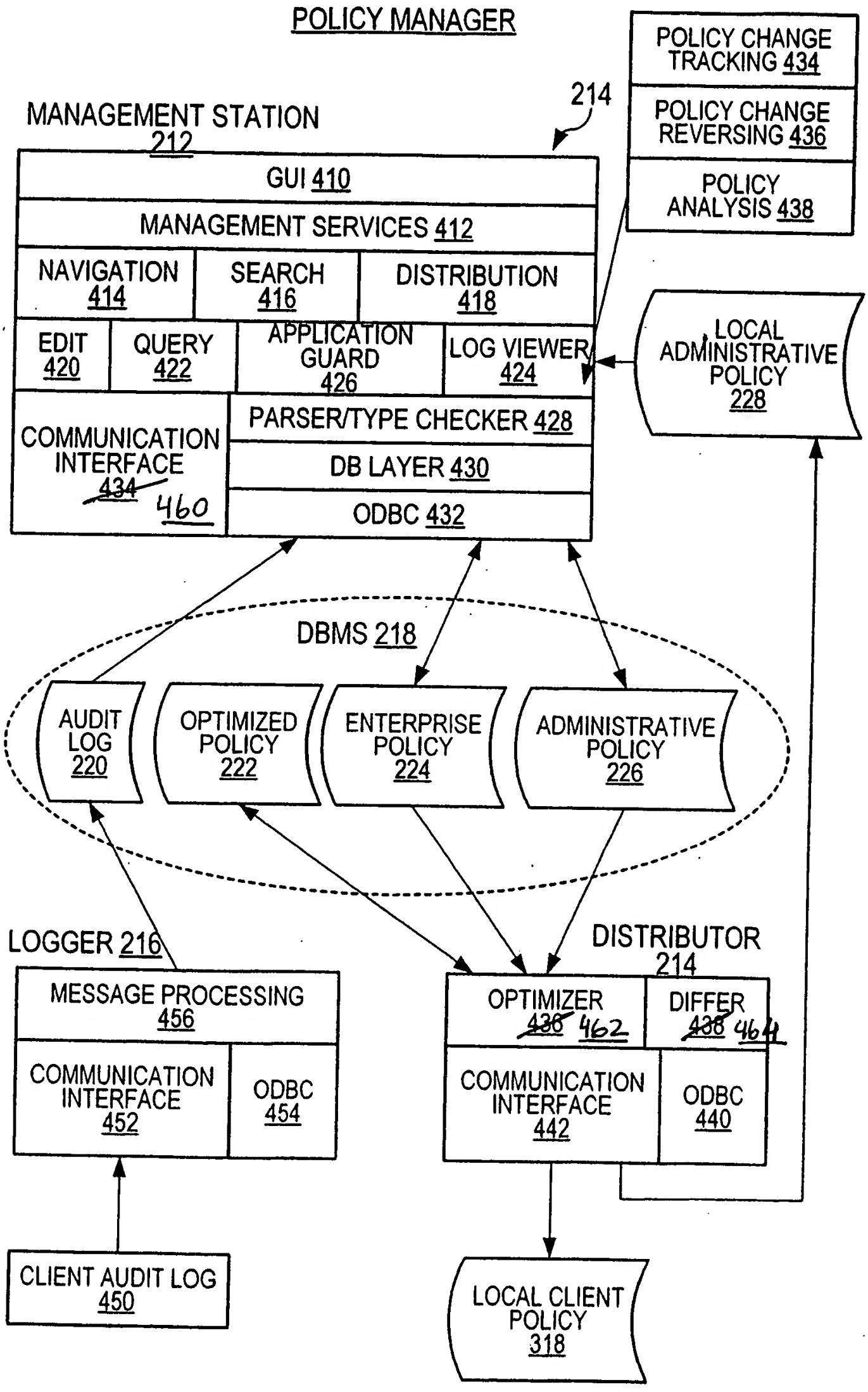

FIG. 4